

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8662

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CANBERRA 5588

DEPTO 026

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ANZUS, AS, OVIP (ROBINSON, CHARLES W.)

SUBJ: ANZUS COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE

1. FOLLOWING IS AGREED TEXT OF ANZUS COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE
TO BE ISSUED AT CLOSE OF COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 4.

2. THE ANZUS COUNCIL HELD ITS TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING IN
CANBERRA ON 3 AND 4 AUGUST 1976. ATTENDING WERE THE
HONOURABLE B.E. TALBOYS, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS; THE HONOURABLE CHARLES W.
ROBINSON, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES;
AND THE HONOURABLE ANDREW PEACOCK, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, AND THE HONOURABLE D.J. KILLEN, MINISTER FOR
DEFENCE, OF AUSTRALIA.

3. THE COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCHANGED VIEWS ON A WIDE RANGE
OF ISSUES. THEY NOTED THAT CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION
HAD CHARACTERIZED THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL DURING THE
QUARTER CENTURY OF CHANGE SINCE THE ANZUS TREATY WAS
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CONCLUDED; AND EXPRESSED THEIR CONFIDENCE THAT THE CLOSE

RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE THREE COUNTRIES, BASED AS IT IS ON A SHARED COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS, WOULD ENDURE AND BE FURTHER DEVELOPED.

4. THE COUNCIL MEMBERS EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE FABRIC OF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION AND NOTED THAT THE ATTEMPT TO STABILIZE THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE MOST POWERFUL NATIONS IS AN IMPORTANT PRECONDITION OF AN ENDURING STRUCTURE OF PEACE.

5. THE COUNCIL REVIEWED THE SITUATION IN KOREA AND NORTH EAST ASIA AND EMPHASIZED ITS INTEREST IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE AREA. IN PARTICULAR, THE COUNCIL NOTED THE CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN EACH OF THE ANZUS PARTNERS AND JAPAN AND WELCOMED THE SIGNATURE OF THE BASIC TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN CONCLUDED ON 16 JUNE 1976.

6. THE COUNCIL NOTED THE POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE ASIAN/PACIFIC REGION AND, GENERALLY, IN WORLD AFFAIRS.

7. THE COUNCIL REVIEWED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC AND NOTED THE GENERAL INCREASE IN EXTERNAL AWARENESS OF THE REGION. THE COUNCIL REAFFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE WHICH IT ATTACHED TO THE SECURITY OF THE REGION AND IN THIS CONNECTION EMPHASIZED THE CONTRIBUTION TO BE MADE BY STEADY AND SUSTAINED ECONOMIC PROGRESS. THE COUNCIL NOTED THE INTENTION OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND TO GIVE GREATER PRIORITY TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. IT ALSO WELCOMED THE GROWING SENSE OF REGIONALISM AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION. IT UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR THESE AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY AND PROMPTLY IN KEY DEVELOPMENT

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AREAS. THE COUNCIL WELCOMED THE JOINT DECLARATION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA ISSUED BY THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM AT ITS RECENT MEETING IN NAURU, IN WHICH THE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS RECOGNIZED THE VALUE OF A COORDINATED APPROACH.

8. THE COUNCIL NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF PEACEFUL AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS AMONG ALL THE STATES OF SOUTH EAST

ASIA. IT WELCOMED THE PROGRESS OF THE INDIVIDUAL SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS IN DEVELOPING THEIR COUNTRIES AND IN STRENGTHENING THEIR SELF-RELIANCE. IT ALSO WELCOMED THE CONTINUED PROGRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) IN DEVELOPING BROAD-BASED REGIONAL COOPERATION. IT EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS MADE TO BUILD MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONS AMONG ALL COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.

9. THE COUNCIL NOTED WITH CONCERN THE INCREASED SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE AND CAPACITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT WELCOMED THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO ESTABLISH A MODEST FACILITY AT DIEGO GARCIA TO SUPPORT UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE REGION. THE COUNCIL BELIEVED THAT A BROAD BALANCE OF MILITARY CAPABILITY, COUPLED WITH A GENERAL FOREBEARANCE FROM PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS, WAS AN ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE FOR STABILITY AND FOR THE RESTRAINT THAT WAS NEEDED IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

10. THE COUNCIL REVIEWED THE EFFORTS BEING MADE TOWARDS ACHIEVING SATISFACTORY MEASURES OF ARMS LIMITATION, WHICH IT CONSIDERED WERE ESSENTIAL TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEACEFUL AND STABLE WORLD ORDER. IN PARTICULAR, THE COUNCIL REAFFIRMED THE DANGERS POSED BY THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES AND WEAPONS CAPABILITIES AND THE NEED TO MOVE AGAINST THESE DANGERS. IT ENDORSED THE VARIOUS MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO STRENGTHEN THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME INCLUDING STRENGTHENED SAFEGUARDS OF AND CONTROLS ON THE EXPORT OF NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY. CONCERN WAS VOICED THAT THERE REMAINED IMPORTANT EXCEPTIONS IN ALL REGIONS OF THE WORLD TO THE GENERAL TREND TOWARDS UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE

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OF THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AND THE HOPE WAS EXPRESSED THAT COUNTRIES NOT YET PARTY TO IT WOULD ACCEDE.

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ACTION EA-09

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11. THE COUNCIL FURTHER SUPPORTED THE CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SOVIET UNION OVER STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AS IMPORTANT TO THE MAINLINE OF A STABLE WORLD BALANCE AND HOPED THAT THESE WOULD LEAD TO FURTHER CURBS ON THE INCREASE OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPON LEVELS. IT ALSO WELCOMED THE SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF AND LIMITING THE YIELD OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS TO SUPPLEMENT THE THRESHOLD TEST BAN TREATY OF 1974. THE MINISTERS REAFFIRMED THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE AT AN EARLY DATE TO TRANSFORM THE PRESENT AGREEMENTS LIMITING NUCLEAR TESTING INTO A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY.

12. THE COUNCIL MEMBERS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE DEGREE OF COOPERATION WHICH EXISTED BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE ARMED FORCES. IN THIS CONNECTION THE MEMBERS WELCOMED THE DECISION BY THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT THE RESUMPTION OF VISITS TO THEIR PORTS BY UNITED STATES NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIPS. IT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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AGREED THAT THIS WAS A NATURAL PART OF THE COOPERATION UNDER THE ANZUS TREATY. THE COUNCIL ALSO WELCOMED THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO ACCELERATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NAVAL FACILITY AT COCKBURN SOUND IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

13. IN CONCLUSION, THE ANZUS PARTNERS CONFIRMED THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT EACH ATTACHED TO THE ALLIANCE AND STRESSED THEIR DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN FURTHER THEIR COOPERATION TO MEET CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY EMPHASIZED THAT THE ASIAN/PACIFIC REGION SHOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP IN PEACE AND PROSPERITY AND AGREED TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONSULTATION ON MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN.
ROBINSON

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